



# ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT *ESPRIT*

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April 2002

## Chief of Engineers Visits St. Louis District



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief Lieutenant General Robert Flowers responds to a question from the audience at the Principia College symposium on Global Freshwater Resources. On the panel with him are (L) moderator Brad Knickerbocker, of the *Christian Science Monitor* newspaper, Virginia Congressman Bob Goodlatte and former Director of California Water Resources David Kennedy.

Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lieutenant General Robert Flowers paid a "high-speed" visit to the St. Louis District, Thursday and Friday, April 11-12. The principle purpose of his trip here was to take part in a college symposium at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois.

The general also took time to conduct three media interviews and to visit the District's Rivers Project office before winging his way back to Washington in mid afternoon on Friday.

The Principia College symposium - an annual event that examines a single international subject in detail - took

on the issue of global freshwater resources this year.

The symposium studied a small segment of the 70 percent of the earth's surface covered by water, focusing on the 3 percent of that amount that is fresh and of use for drinking and agriculture.

The general, who recently returned from the arid reaches of the mideast, took part in a panel discussion on national water resource issues. In addition to Flowers, the panel included Bob Goodlatte, Congressman from Virginia and former Director of California's Department of Water Resources, David Kennedy.

While Congressman Goodlatte and Mr. Kennedy spoke broadly on water resources, they also focused on issues in California and the Tidewater area of Virginia.

General Flowers focused more widely on nationwide Corps initiatives, including new steps to champion the environment. All panel members agreed that in the past, water issues have tended to be decided in favor of users - population centers have been able to summon votes and get their ways.

Following his symposium participation, General Flowers sat down for a one-on-one interview with Alton,

*Continued on page 3*



## Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R. Morrow, Commander

In early April I traveled with LTG Flowers for a week overseas to visit our Engineer soldiers supporting operation Enduring Freedom. After a long overseas flight with stops in Germany and Egypt, I linked up with the Chief in Kuwait.

We traveled to numerous military installations and toured ongoing construction projects. In the city we traveled in an armored limousine with police escort. After we received the morning update from the local commander we traveled by helicopter to visit the soldiers set up in the desert around Kuwait. The weather was turning warm and the soldier's moral was high.

The Chief stopped and talked with groups of Engineers soldiers at every location telling them how proud we all are of them and the great work they are doing.

That night we boarded a C-130 military transport for the 12-hour flight to Uzbekistan, Russia. You have never lived until you have flown in the cargo hold of a transport; no frills here. We landed at midnight on an old Soviet MIG fighter base in K-2

and I was amazed at the amount of work being done.

I stood by the old bomb blast hangers smoking a cigar and looking up at the pitch-black sky studded with stars. I remember thinking that I had spent my entire military career standing across the border facing down the Soviet Bear, and here I was, standing on one of their airfields. We visited the troops working there and then flew out that afternoon for Afghanistan.

The flight was not as long. However, it was exciting as we had to do a nap of the earth approach through the mountains to land in Bagram, Afghanistan. Our Engineer soldiers were busy supporting combat operations from this mountain airfield. They were continually repairing the old worn out airfield and clearing land mines. We spent the day and that evening we flew out headed for Kandahar.



We landed at Kandahar around midnight. This is the airfield you often see on TV as a backdrop for reporters. Our soldiers were again repairing the runway as flights came and went continually. They were also very busy with the deadly business of clearing thousands of landmines in and around this desolate place. Life in Afghanistan is bleak, but our

soldiers are hard at work, continually improving the conditions and supporting the war.

I ran into many soldiers that I have served with in all these countries. It was like an old home reunion.

The trip for me was very beneficial since I will be working in these areas soon as the CENTCOM Engineer.

The flight back was long and I had already seen the in-flight movies. I arrived in St Louis at 7:30pm and I must tell you it was good to be back. I was very proud of the soldiers we visited and the hard work they are doing to support the war on terrorism. They are working seven days a week in harsh conditions in a far away land, far from their homes and loved ones. Please keep them in your prayers.

Essayons!

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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District®

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District Commander ----- Michael R. Morrow

Chief, Public Affairs ----- Alan J. Dooley

Editor, Design, Layout ----- Russell A. Elliott

Address mail to: US Army Engineer District, St. Louis, ATTN: CEMVS-PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833, Phone (314) 331-8095





### Chief's visit continued from page 1

Illinois' The Telegraph editor Steve Whitworth before departing to tour facilities at the Rivers Project just across the river from the college.



There he viewed several environmental projects and met with District employees to trade views on a variety of subjects before he conducted two more interviews with Waterways Journal reporter Mat Sorrell and St. Louis Post-Dispatch Transportation Writer Ken Leiser.

Before departing for St. Louis Lambert Field airport for his flight back to Washington, General Flowers complimented Corps employees for their enthusiasm and contributions to the District and Corps missions



Pat McGinnis, Riverland Project office in West Alton (L) leads Corps Chief Lieutenant General Robert Flowers and District Engineer Colonel Michael Morrow on a tour of Riverlands Project facilities during the Chief's Friday, April 12, visit there.

## Chief of Hydraulics Awarded the de Fleury Medal



Mississippi Valley Division Commander Brigadier General Edwin Arnold (L), Claude Strauser and Colonel Michael Morrow, St. Louis District Commander

[ed.] Read Claude's humorous story on page 9.

Claude N. Strauser, of the St. Louis District, Army Corps of Engineers, has been awarded the de Fleury Medal for his life's work focused on the Mississippi River.

Mississippi Valley Division Commander Brigadier General Edwin J. Arnold, Jr., presented the award at a ceremony held in the museum under the

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial on the banks of the Mississippi River at St. Louis, Mo. The award was presented during the recent Inland Waterways Navigation Conference held in St. Louis.

Strauser has created a new field of engineering called Environmental River Engineering. The new field of engineering has a goal of obtaining and maintaining a safe and dependable navigation channel in an environmentally sensitive manner. New techniques and methods have been created to improve the river environment by developing new habitats for the aquatic inhabitants of the river.

The de Fleury Medal was first struck to honor a French soldier who fought with General George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Francois de Fleury was appointed by the Continental Congress as a captain of engineers. Today the medal honors those individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army Engineering.



# Flowers Talks On Waterways Issues

By Matt Sorrell

Reprinted with permission from the *Waterways Journal*, April 22, 2002.



When you need answers, it's best to go straight to the top, so that's what we did. Recently, the WJ got a chance to sit down with Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers when he made a stop in the St. Louis area. Flowers candidly held forth on a variety of timely subjects involving the Corps, including security, the environment and the need for all waterways stakeholders to start working together.

## Security

• *Are security measures at locks and dams going to be reduced soon?*

We will, in the next two weeks, complete a review of all of our critical infrastructure. We've used a special team of reservists that we called up to go around and take a look at everything, to include locks and dams. I think we're doing about 368 assessments nationwide.

They are coming back to us with a series of recommendations on things we need to do to improve security from a force protection and anti-terrorism standpoint. Some of the things we've asked for are ways that we can go through the various threat levels and provide as much access to the public and those who work the river as possible as we go through

those conditions.

So, I think you'll see that. You'll still see security at a heightened level, but I think you'll see us leaning forward to provide what access we can as well, particularly for those who are frequent users of the property.

## Mike Parker

• *At the recent Industry Day conference in St. Louis, Brig. Gen. Griffin (director of civil works) referred to the recent departure of former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASACW) Mike Parker as "traumatic." How is Corps morale doing in the wake of Parker's resignation?*

(Parker) was a close friend of mine, a colleague and a real, tremendous advocate for the Corps. For me, and I think for the Corps leadership, it was a tough thing to go through. But the Corps is very resilient; we've been around for 226 years now, working hard to serve the nation and the armed forces, and we pick up and move on, and that's what we've done.

What I did, I sent out messages to everyone in the workforce to let them know what happened, and also to let them know that we have a mission to do and we're going to keep working. We've also been very fortunate in that

the Secretary (of the Army) assigned the undersecretary to be the acting ASACW, Les Brownlee. I think he's really leaned forward to embrace that new part of his job, and to learn more about the Corps and be really value-added and help us.

My assessment is it was tough, it hurt, and we lost a great advocate. The rest of us have to work a little bit harder at the top, but the organization is sound and moving on. My assessment of Corps morale is that it's pretty decent.

• *Is there any indication how long Mr. Brownlee is going to be in that position?*

No, there isn't, but I would think that it would probably be a while before we see a new ASACW; they have to be confirmed by the Senate, so there's a fairly lengthy process they have to go through once the White House has sent a name, and right now I don't know that they're even on the verge of sending a name over.

• *Will you or any of your staff be involved in helping the president create a short list of candidates?*

If asked, we could help, but typically, no. That's done by the administration without any input from the Corps.

## Missouri River

• *Will the final version of the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual, due next spring, be implemented as the final product, or will there be yet another round of input review and study?*

As far as we can tell right now, after all that we've gone through in the Missouri Master Manual effort, once





the manual is released, we are prepared to proceed.

Having said that, there is always the potential that there will be some new findings in engineering or science that will cause us to review our approach. We'll get better science on those (endangered) species, and we may find that changes are necessary as a result of that, but that would require a vetting process.

The key is, we are looking at all of the uses. We've tried to do that through an open process, getting everybody involved, and when all is said and done, we're liable to come out with something that will please no one, and that may be about where we should be on the issue. But we'll do our best to base the recommendation on the best science and engineering available; as that gets better, maybe the approach will change.

## The Environment

**• On the subject of the environment, last month in Louisiana, you unveiled seven "environmental operating principles" for the Corps. It seems as though these are really a codification of what's already currently being done in the Corps. Why did you decide to 'officially' release these principles, and how are they different from what you're already doing?**

I had seen the Corps changing over time, and adopting more environmental assessments, talking more to the other resource agencies and incorporating that in our process. There were places across the Corps where it was being done very well, and there were other places where they were getting into it and struggling. I thought it might be a good idea to help jump-start this by setting these principles down.

In April 2001, I gave a speech on Earth Day in Portland, Ore., where I challenged the organization. I said we need to adopt some principles and some doctrine to help guide the Corps as it moves forward in all of its decision making so that the environment gets the due consideration it needs.

I think we are good enough now to do sustainable development, and that is do projects that not only have economic benefit and take care of flood control and navigation while at the same time help enhance the environment.

We've taken the time from April of last year to April of this year and have vetted these (principles) and refined them, shared them with other federal agencies, legislators, partners and shareholders. I think people have taken a look at this and the feedback has been generally very positive. The only ones that we really haven't heard any positive feedback from are the environmental groups. They may see this as some gimmick, but as we move to the future, we're establishing metrics so that the public can kind of grade our paper.

I think that by adopting these principles, it will help us be more timely in the delivery of what we do. There are some people who may take a look at some of these things and say "This is going to add more time. You already take too long and cost too much, and now it's going to take even longer and probably cost more." My belief is, I don't think that's true. I think what'll happen now, with an open process where everybody understands how we're proceeding, and getting input early on from all the varied interests, we can develop some consensus around an approach.

Follow that approach, and the chances of bringing it to conclusion quickly are much greater than what we

have traditionally employed, which is putting something together and sending it out for 30- or 45-day notice, dealing with the comments, working on it some more, and maybe sharing it with a couple of shareholders. This process, I think, will get things done more quickly. We're a mission-oriented organization, and I see that as our mission. Our job is to not study things forever, and not take longer than is required to do work, but to deliver it in a timely fashion and delight our partners and stakeholders.

**• How much of the Corps' budget goes toward environmental projects?**

About 20 percent of our civil works program is money spent on environmental restoration; it's a growing piece of our mission.

**• One of the criticisms of the Corps that is often voiced by the waterways industry is that the focus of the organization has shifted away from navigation and toward environmental concerns. Do you agree with that assessment?**

Absolutely not. Navigation, flood control and environmental restoration are our big three missions, and there's been no shift. It's normal now on any study or project, and we're seeing it on the Upper Miss study, where all three tie together, so you're considering all three anyway as you move forward.

The Corps sees ourselves as the organization that can take a look at all of the features and pull them together, and I think we're unique in the government in that.

I've had people tell me the Corps is becoming 'too green.' That is absolutely not true. In the environmental operating principles it talks about sustainable development, not strictly



environmental projects. Can we build a navigation system that's also a 'win' for the environment? The answer is yes, we can.

**• *Given the current tense climate between industry and environmentalists, is that type of a consensus really possible?***

Absolutely. It hasn't come out yet, but on the Upper Miss, the work we did on the EIS (environmental impact statement) has really advanced the science on the environment there. We are able to leverage all of the work that was done on the study before, and a good bit of that was the millions of dollars we spent on the environmental baselines and backgrounds. I think this information will really open the eyes of the environmental community to all of the things that have been done, and I think it will stand us in very good stead for coming out with a project or projects that will be win-wins for the economy and for the environment.

**• *American Rivers claims that the Corps is directly responsible for six of 11 rivers being on their recent most endangered rivers list. Obviously, many of the Corps' environmental stewardship efforts are going unrecognized. Is publicizing those aspects of your mission something the Corps needs to work on?***

Yes, but it's frustrating. It's very hard to get a story like that told. I'm now in the process of going all over the country doing editorial boards in all of the major cities, trying to help tell the Corps' story, but it's tough to get it out. What would be very helpful is if we had some of our stakeholders and partners helping to tell the story.

That's kind of what we're doing, working on relationships in the hopes that those who work with the Corps and like what they see are willing to

talk about it.

The Corps is just doing a tremendous amount of work. I just opened last month at Davis Pond (La.) the largest coastal restoration project in the world, trying to recreate wetlands. We got a little bit of regional coverage, and that's it.

**• *What do you attribute that to?***

I attribute it to a couple of things. In order to fill your coffers, you have to have a threat or an enemy out there. Because of the stereotype of the Corps as being one of those groups that is always out there building dams, always interested in construction and polluting rivers, it is in (environmental groups') best interest to promulgate that stereotype. It's not helpful to them to have a Corps of Engineers that's environmentally friendly that's working for the betterment of the environment.

The other thing is I think a genuine belief that 'the Corps is absolutely pro-development, and development is bad, and therefore we have to be very wary of the Corps and oppose what they do.' And most of them tend to be very reluctant to get in, roll their sleeves up and work with us. That's not true of a number of groups on the local and regional level, nor is it true of the other agencies, federal, state and some cases local agencies we work with. We have some wonderful relationships with some of their natural resources personnel. But as far as some of the national groups go, it's very difficult for us.

**• *Do you think the fact that the Corps is a military organization at its heart contributes to this?***

You know, it may. There may be some traditional bias against the military, but I'd hope not.

I get asked often "Why is the Army involved in civil works stuff? It

doesn't make sense; what's it got to do with national defense?" Well, the United States is absolutely unique in having an organization like the Army Corps of Engineers; no other country has this.

It does a couple of things. It provides the military an asset for when we have to transfer from peace to conflict that can be leveraged to solve engineering or science problems. The county since its inception has always relied on its military engineers to help solve problems. In the early days of the republic, all of the engineers were in the military; the first engineering school was West Point.

What that gives you, again very unique, is when we make a recommendation, when I sign a piece of paper as chief of Engineers, you're getting the signature of someone who has absolutely no political ties, ambitions or anything else, nor have any of my predecessors. For 226 years, you're getting 'just the facts.'

That's probably what's hurt the most in the last couple of years, the implication that we played political games. Not true. I got asked during budget testimony last year, a representative asked me 'General, when you were putting this budget together, did you get political pressure?' And I said "Yes sir. But if your question is did that political pressure change any of my recommendations, the answer is absolutely not."

## Upper Miss Locks And Dams

**• *On the national defense side of things, do you think the failure to improve locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi River will negatively impact our readiness?***

What the inland waterways system gives us is agility. We can move materials quickly in a very secure



mode on the inland waterways system, in I think an environmentally friendly fashion. We have used the system in current operations. If we need to move some critical material from the upper Midwest and get it to a strategic deployment facility someplace, I think the quickest way to move a large amount of material is by water.

As the (navigation) study comes to fruition, everything will kind of come clear, but I think, and we've heard the president say, that we need to double our trade in the next 20 years. Well. If we're going to double our trade in the next 20 years, we have to have a way of moving goods and materials. I think the inland waterways system is going to be a major player in that.

But the system as it exists today has a lot of needs, a backlog of maintenance and repair work that needs to be accomplished, so we're also trying to tell that story and make sure we take what we have now and get it into the best possible shape we can until we either replace it with something larger or do a rehabilitation to get it into world-class shape in the size it's in now.

## Corps Reform

**• *There have been a lot of ideas presented regarding what, if anything, should be done to reform the Corps in the wake of the whistleblower allegations that came to light a couple of years ago. One of these is peer review of Corps projects. Do you think this is a necessary thing?***

I think the current process we have is probably the most open and visible in the federal government. There's a lot of opportunity for input, and we work all of the time to improve that process. Having said that, we are not afraid of peer review, so if peer review is in the cards, we welcome it.

The objection I would have would

be if the form of peer review adopted requires more time and adds more expense to an already lengthy process.

If it's something that can be done concurrently and provides input to the Corps and the chief before the chief signs the chief's report, then I'm all for it. If it's going to be a process that waits until the Corps finishes all of its work and the chief signs the chief's report, and then it goes to some other body that's going to review everything that's been done, that is going to add more time, more expense.

I would be hard-pressed to think how you could stand up a non-biased body. If the criticism is the potential for a politicized process, then try something like that.

We welcome independent review. I'd just caution against anything that's going to add more time or expense to the process. I think what we do now is pretty good, and it'll keep getting better without any outside review. But we will have the National Academy of Sciences rendering a report in July on the subject, so we're looking forward to getting that and seeing what we can do to get better.

I think we are a huge target; everything we get involved with is so controversial. And because of the events of the last two years, there are those who have really hammered home on old stereotypes and so forth, who really don't know the Corps, who are trying to reform an organization that has evolved and worked very hard in service to the public, and I think has made some significant contributions.

People who want to harp on something like the Upper Miss study, the first of its kind ever, concentrating on one massive study, when we do tens of thousands of these things, and then labeling us based on what happens on one study is really unfair and a cheap shot.

So if you want to get into a debate on Corps reform, let's talk about

water, water policy and how decisions should be made, how should the process be. I think those debates, nationally, would be very worthwhile, and we would love to participate. But homing in on the Corps and trying to use the Corps as a lever or whatever to try and stop development and lengthen the time it takes to get projects done is, I think, the wrong way to proceed.

**• *How do you think the Corps has changed since the inspector general's (IG) report came out in 2000?***

We learn from all of our experiences, so we took the IG's report and the National Academy of Sciences report and we reviewed them, and we incorporated lessons learned from both of those reports before we restarted the Upper Miss study.

Congress told us back in 1993 that, contrary to the way things were done in the past, they wanted us to look at an entire system, the Upper Miss and the Illinois Waterway, with 37 locks and dams, well over 1,000 miles of waterway, and an environmentally sensitive area. They wanted us to look 50 years into the future, make some recommendations on what to do and then expedite. So we moved out and started working.

We used things we had traditionally used, tried to pull together and work collaboratively, and got on down the road until 1998 or 1999. What happened there was, the leadership was trying to press the study and bring it home on time and under budget. We had workers, Dr. Sweeney among them, who I think were trying to do the right thing, working up an economic model that would work. The National Academy of Sciences report basically said that the economic model developed by the Corps was a fine model and an excellent try. Unfortunately, it was a micro-economic model being applied to a macro-economic



problem, and there wasn't enough data available anywhere to feed into that model.

I think that if the IG, in the time they did their investigation on the whistleblower allegation, would have had the National Academy of Sciences report, it might have been a different outcome. But you have to remember, the IG report and the National Academy of Sciences report were done before any draft (study) report was released. And still, we're talking about one study out of tens of thousands that the Corps does. You have to put it in perspective.

But, we are learning from the experience. I think we'll be doing more large-scale studies and we'll continue to apply those lessons learned, and I think you will see tremendous progress on the Upper Miss study. We'll have an interim report out in July and that will basically show the way ahead. We're going to push as hard as we can, working collaboratively to get the project finished.

## The Budget

**• *Is the proposed 2003 Corps budget adequate to do what needs to be done with the study?***

It keeps us going, but everything is related to time and resources. We'll be able to move the study down the road, but we could probably finish it faster if we had more resources.

**• *Assuming the budget goes through as it stands now, is that going to impact the jobs of Corps personnel? Would people lose their jobs as a result?***

No. The Corps has become a very efficient organization already. Ten years ago or so, our program, military and civil works, was about \$8 billion,

and we probably had about 47,000 employees. Last year, our program was \$14.5 billion, and we had 35,000 employees. Given the size of the program, if there's no changes made to the president's budget right now, we would not have to lay off Corps employees. I don't anticipate having to do that. But what it does do is cause us to stretch out some projects and in some cases cancel projects that were started but not funded in the new budget.

**• *During his remarks at Industry Day this year, Brig. Gen. Griffin also emphasized the Corps is not at odds with the Office of Management & Budget (OMB), despite the apparent tension there.. Do you see some type of struggle going on between the organizations?***

No. I think there is some traditional tension with all of the federal agencies with the federal agency that is tasked with making sure they account for all the money they get.

I went over and had a personal meeting with Mitch Daniels (director of OMB) that was very cordial. Our staffs are cooperating fully on putting things together, and I think, hopefully, that we have established a much better understanding and rapport, and as we move forward into the preparation of the next budget cycle, it'll get better and better. This one was really the first we had an opportunity to work together on, and I think the response to September 11, and moving from a surplus budget to a deficit budget has really put everyone in a tough position. OMB has a very hard job; we'll work with them as closely as possible.

## The Last Word

**• *The Corps rarely gets a chance to rebut charges or 'blow its own horn.'***

***Is there anything you'd like to make a statement about?***

I think it's time for everyone with an interest in water and our waterways to roll up their sleeves, come forward and get the ball rolling. Let's work together to get this thing moving. Water is a very finite resource, and it requires a lot of attention. We all have to work collaboratively, and I think the restarted Upper Miss study will showcase this.

I had a Fish & Wildlife Service employee come up to me when we were doing the environmental advisory board at the Quad Cities and say "I have to pinch myself every day, because a year ago, there's no way we'd be talking about some of these issues. I've learned a lot and I can see other people's viewpoints."

I think when you put people together working on something, people start finding some common ground, and then you start developing the potential for some 'win-win' situations. And then, you'll build a consensus-not total and complete agreement, but some consensus around those things you have in common, and from that you'll develop an approach that has a tremendous chance for success in a very timely fashion, and that's what we're after.

It's time to work and quit the carping; we work on 100 percent of American rivers.

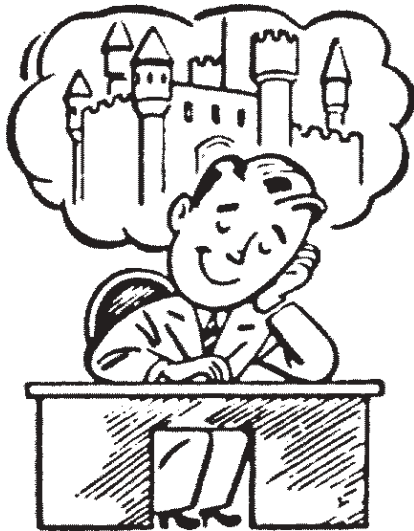






## The Way I Remember It!

by Claude Strauser



The other day I was listening to a couple of employees at the supply cabinet. One was complaining about the quality of the pens available for use. This brought back memories of how things use to be.

While I was on the Junior Engineer Training (JET) program I was

assigned to work with the survey crews. We were assigned a task to lay out the centerline of the proposed Clarence Cannon Dam. This work had to be done at night because of the equipment we were using. A survey line had been created up to the bluff line on the south side of the valley and a survey line had been created up to the bluff line on the north side of the valley. Our task was to measure the distance between these two lines and connect them together. The instrument we used was a geodolite. It sent out a beam of light from the location of the tripod on one side of the valley to a reflector located on the other side of the valley. The time it took for the light to travel from the geodolite to the reflector (and return) was then converted into a distance.

I was watching the party chief write the results of this effort into a survey book. The survey book entries were made very carefully. Each number was penciled in with exacting detail and clarity. The surveyors took great pride in the presentations made into

these small books. I noticed that the pencil the party chief was using was very short. I asked him why he didn't throw that pencil away and get a new one? Everyone seemed shocked by this obviously foolish request (I didn't think it was foolish). Later on I found out why my comments weren't accepted.

On Monday mornings the various survey crews met at the Service Base. Supplies for the next job were issued to each survey crew. I saw each surveyor measure his wooden pencil. If they thought their pencil was too short, they would present it to their supervisor. He would take out a ruler and measure the suspect pencil. If the supervisor determined the pencil was long enough, it was used for another week. If the pencil was determined to be too short, a brand new pencil was retrieved from the supply cabinet and issued to the surveyor. If you did not have a used pencil to exchange for a new pencil, you had to explain the loss.

That is the way I remember it!

The CAC has chosen Eckert's Millstadt Country Farm as the location of the 2002 District Picnic. The picnic will be held on Thursday, 13 June 2002, beginning at 0900 and ending at 1500.

Picnic activities include: bingo, washer games, sand volleyball, horseshoes, miniature golf, children's play area, petting farm, and wagon train rides thru the orchard. The CAC will also be providing a clown/balloon sculptor to entertain the children.

Employees and retirees interested in participating in the picnic golf tournament, at The Ridge in Waterloo, please contact Dennis Gilmore, 314-331-8108.



### Lunch Menu:

BBQ Beef Ribs, BBQ Chicken, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, Grilled Corn on the Cob, Eckert's freshly made frozen custard, and Eckert's famous Apple Pie. \*Unlimited bottled soda and water will also be available for the duration of the picnic.

\*\*Ticket prices (inclusive of food, beverages, and picnic activities per person):

\$13 each adult

\$6 each child (ages 4-11)

Children 3 & under are free

Ticket sales will begin on Wednesday, 1 May, and end on Friday, 31 May.

Retirees and field site personnel can contact Marla Hayes, 314-331-8234, to purchase tickets.

We hope to see you at the picnic!

— Your St. Louis District CAC

\* Due to the liability of Eckert's liquor license, no alcoholic beverages may be carried on to Eckert's property.

\*\* No refunds given once a ticket is purchased.



## New Top Civilian Arrives at St. Louis District



Joseph P. Kellett arrived April 22, to assume duties as the new senior civilian, Deputy District Engineer for Planning, Programs and Project Management for the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kellett, who will work at the District Headquarters in downtown St. Louis, is a St. Louis native and a graduate of the University of Missouri, Rolla, where he was awarded a BS in civil engineering and an MS engineering management.

Kellett is returning to the St. Louis District from an assignment as the Chief, Construction Division with the Rock Island District in Rock Island, IL. Here in his new position he will oversee all District projects from their inception through construction completion.

His selection marks the third time Kellett has served in the St. Louis District during his engineering career. He began there in 1980 as a civil engineer. In 1985 he was assigned to the field office for the design and construction of the Melvin Price Lock and Dam.

Following a period of employment with a civilian engineering firm, Kellett returned to the Corps of Engineers in 1987 when he accepted a three-year assignment to Nuremberg, Germany with the Corps' European Division.

He returned to the St. Louis District in 1990, working in the construction and project management divisions there.

In 1995 he moved north to the Rock Island District where he served first as Chief, Contract Administration Branch before being promoted to Chief of Construction Division. He has been serving as the Acting Chief, Project Management Branch for the past year.

Kellett is a registered professional engineer in Missouri and a member of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Fraternity, the Society of American Military Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He has been honored with numerous awards including the Achievement Award for Civil Service, the Commanders Award for Civil Service and the Liberty Bell Award.

The Kellett family will relocate to the St. Louis area this spring. Kellett's wife Fran, is an x-ray technician. They have three daughters: Shannon, 18, who will attend Iowa State University next year; Elizabeth, 13 and Rachel, 8.

## April Employee of the Month

James L. Fox has been selected for for his outstanding efforts on the Periodic Inspection of the Wappapello Lake control structure on March 5 and 6, 2002. Months of coordination and planning were required to insure the needed equipment and manpower were available to complete this complicated task of dewatering the control structure and making necessary minor repairs.

Rain in the watershed caused the lake to rise, reducing the number of days available for the inspection from three days to two days. With Jim's leadership, the whole operation was a real team effort with everyone pulling together to complete this project within the time available. His dedica-

tion and tireless effort insured the dewatering and repairs were safe and successful. The entire inspection team was impressed with his abilities and knowledge of the Wappapello facilities. He is known for his strong work ethic, constantly striving to do an outstanding job at all tasks.

## Honors to Corps Family Member Yakira Maynard

Miss Yakira Maynard, a senior at Sumner High School, St. Louis and the daughter of Deborah Davis, a computer assistant in the District's IM office, attended the National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) in Washington, DC, March 19 through 24, 2002.

Yakira was chosen based on

academic merit, community and leadership involvement and is one of about 7,000 students nationwide selected to take part in the program this year.

While in our nation's capital Yakira had the thrill of visiting the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, an honor usually reserved for members of Congress and their special guests. There, former representative Tom Downey of New York welcomed her and other NYLC participants, telling them how he was inspired to strive for a congressional seat by a childhood visit to the capital.

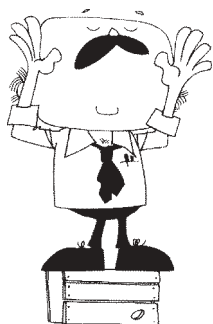
The young future leaders also met and interacted with a panel of nationally known journalists who advised the students on current events and the journalism profession.



### Missouri Beautification Association Roadside Cleanup:

A record turnout was present on Saturday April 6th for the annual Roadside Cleanup at Wappapello Lake. 153 volunteers turned out to clean up over 24 miles of roadways around Wappapello Lake. Volunteers were present from local churches, Boy Scout troops, 4-H groups and youth centers. Combined the volunteers completed over 649 hours of volunteer service. The Wappapello Lions Club was on hand to graciously feed lunch to all participants. Over 311 bags of trash were removed from the roadways surrounding Wappapello Lake making the area more aesthetically pleasing for visitors.

### Around the District



### Wappapello Lake

On April 17 and 18, 2002 over 650 8th grade students from local schools visited Wappapello Lake for the annual Earth Day Celebration.

Students enjoyed programs given not only by Corps of Engineers Rangers but by representatives from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the U.S. Forest Service and local extension offices. Sunny weather and dedicated speakers made this years event a huge success.

### Earth day Volunteers Beautify Lake Shelbyville

Lake Shelbyville, Illinois — More than 90 volunteers turned out to help prepare Lake Shelbyville for the new season. The event was held Saturday, April 20, 2002 in conjunction with Earth day.

The volunteers helped to remove litter from several areas and prepared flower beds and planted flowers.

The volunteers included numerous area individuals and two organizations: The Coldspring Copperhead 4-H and Shelbyville Cub Scouts Den 2 Pack 51. Prairie State Waste Services also participated by providing trash bags for the litter and bringing in lunch for all of the volunteers.



### Volunteers Assist With Tree Planting:

The Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake hosted a "Plant America's Future" community tree planting event on April 20th, 2002 whereby approximately 600 seedlings provided by the National Tree Trust were planted. An additional 100 bald cypress trees will be planted along the shoreline to help improve fisheries by providing additional shade. A total of 48 volunteers, representing the JR ROTC, Poplar Bluff Key Club, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, helped improve our public facilities and wildlife areas through their efforts.

The National Tree Trust was established in 1990 to help bring local volunteer groups together to plant, grow and nurture trees in our urban and rural communities. The NTT promotes public awareness concerning the benefits of trees through education and tree planting, providing grants, and mobilizing volunteers.

## Earth Day Celebrations!





## Terrorist Activities And Corps Of Engineer Dams

*by District Security Office*

The Corps of Engineers is responsible for some of the most critical infrastructure in the nation, providing flood control, navigation, hydroelectric power, and water supply that are essential to our livelihood and economy. Appurtenant to these are other tremendous benefits that are important to all of us such as recreation and environmental enhancement.

In light of the recent terrorist attacks and the potential for the continuation of such, what is the Corps doing about protecting these projects?

Within days of the 9/11 attacks, HQUSACE directed that all projects in the Corps of Engineers receive thorough comprehensive assessments that focus on vulnerabilities of our operational procedures and various components of the projects that are essential to performing our missions.

By HQUSACE mandate, the assessment team is made up of representatives from the dam safety, security, and operations offices and is assisted by a Military Police Officer with special training in intelligence and security measures. Our district team consists of Jim Brown, Dick Schaumburg, Denny Foss, and Maj. Victoria Hudson. This same team is looking at all district projects.

All actions and the process is directed and overseen by higher authorities to assure consistent approach Corps-wide. The assessment process is called Risk Assessment Methodology for Dams (RAM-D). The team uses intelligence information, interviews project staff and local authorities, performs field inspections, and solicits input from various technical experts to gather the information that is necessary to do the security assessment.

The team:

- looks for vulnerabilities in the operation procedures, structural

weaknesses

- looks at the level of consequence for the loss of the most highly rated benefits of the structure (i.e.: water supply, navigation, hydropower, ecological, and flood control. Anything else is a subset of the above, i.e.; recreation is a subset water supply, etc.)

- looks at the prevailing threats of any and all adversaries, groups, etc. that could have a negative impact on the mission.

- looks at the current level of protection as related to the specific



vulnerabilities that were found.

After gathering the information, the team uses the procedures, the forms and the formulae provided by HQUSACE to determine the level of risk associated with that specific project. The team also makes recommendations for improvements (either procedural or physical) to protect the structure and the mission from being compromised by adversaries. The improvements are specifically tailored to the weaknesses. The cost of the improvements, as well as the impact on the operation and the public are evaluated along with the commensurate reduction in the risk value. All of the findings and recommendations are compiled in a formal report and are provided to district management for appropriate action. The formal reports are then forwarded through MVD for processing to HQUSACE for funding consideration.

The results of this whole process will be kept on file in a secure location for future reference. The reports will be updated periodically to incorporate the changes that will take place over time to assure that risk is kept at an acceptable level. This might be accomplished in the course of various ongoing programs such as the Periodic Inspection, Security Inspection, and Physical Security surveys that are done on a periodic basis.

The specific results for each dam contain sensitive information and are not to be common knowledge to those that do not have the appropriate need to know.

The best and most important thing that the anyone associated with our dams or locks can do to sustain a high level of security include the following:

All new initiatives, whether structural modifications, visitation policy, new operational procedures, etc. be coordinated with ED (Dam Safety), District Security and the prevailing ISAT team leader as necessary to assure that risk of attack is kept low.

Any priority that is placed on visitor access to the structure must be balanced with the responsibility to safeguard and mitigate against the likely consequences of terrorist attack.

Some means of scheduled communication among operating and maintenance staff personnel should be instituted particularly when working alone or investigating abnormal occurrences.

Be familiar with AR 381-12, Subversion and Espionage Directed against the Department of the Army, which is an annual requirement for all employees.

Continued vigilance should be emphasized to all staff with these security concepts in mind.

Remember to secure assets and information. Lock what can be locked.

Coordinate with local authorities



and solidify agreements, upgrade contact information, share current issues.

A few discoveries about St. Louis District projects that may be of interest:

The value of navigation in our section of the river exceeds \$20 million per day, which rivals any such magnitude in the entire Corps of Engineers, including the big hydro-power dams in the Northwest.

The industry and communities along the river rely on the navigation pools for water supply. The value of water supply has become substantial, now exceeding one billion dollars per year.

How would our projects fare against the terrorists? In general, they are tough. The project designs and various types of materials, as well as our ability to respond to problems works in our favor. This results in projects that, while they could be damaged, would be very difficult to produce a catastrophic failure that would endanger lives or disable the mission.

The protection systems existent on our structures are designed for operation not for calculated intrusion. They were meant to keep unauthorized persons out of the way so we can do our jobs and keep them from getting hurt. Since terrorists and other types of adversaries are now in the picture, the systems must be upgraded to increase detection and delay and to improve notification of law enforcement.

In conclusion, our projects play an important role locally, regionally and globally. It would be difficult for adversaries to compromise our mission. Our protection systems and level of awareness and ability to respond are constantly improving. We have a very good chance of acquiring funds in addition to our normal allocations to implement improvements that are recommended by the security assessments.



### To all employees: Please join me in congratulating:

Eugene Marino, promoted to GS-12 in ED-Z.

James Deterding, converted from SCEP to career conditional appointment and promoted to WY-10 Electrician at Kaskaskia L&D.

Mike Daily, temporarily promoted to GS-12 in CO-F.

Sharon Cotner, permanently promoted to GS-14 in PM-R.

Hanford Counts, temporarily promoted to GS-12 in ED-P.

Carole Mitchell, promoted to GS-7 in RE-E.

James Lovelace, promoted to GS-12 in RE-E.

Justin Elmore, converted from STEP to SCEP, GS-3 at Carlyle Lake.

Douglas Wasmuth, converted from STEP to SCEP, GS-3 at Carlyle Lake.

Grant Gelly, converted from STEP to SCEP, GS-4 at CO-NR.

Tandika Gates, converted from SCEP to career conditional appointment, GS-9 in EEEO.

David Davis, promoted to GS-7, Carlyle Lake.

David Berti, temporarily promoted to GS-13, Mark Twain Lake.

Julie Ziino, permanently promoted to GS-12 in the Executive Office.

Robin Parks, promoted to GS-12 in ED-GG

Christopher Coe, temporarily promoted to GS-11 at Mark Twain Lake.

Debbie Warner, temporarily promoted to GS-7 in LM.

Terrence Becker, promoted to WG-7 at Carlyle Lake.

### Welcome to:

- Joe Kellett, new DDEPM, GS-15 in the Executive Office.

- Kimberly Rea, reinstated to Park Ranger, GS-7, CO-NR.

- Julie Blanks, reassigned from HQDA ACTEDS Intern position to Personnel Management Specialist, GS-9, in HR.

- Gregory Rakers, appointed to Health Physicist, GS-12 in ED-GG.

Peggy Poindexter, new Lock and Dam Operator, WY-8 at Mel Price L&D.

Christy Lyons, new Park Ranger, GS-5 at Mark Twain Lake.

### Farewell to:

Tori Calong, resigned from ED-HQ.

Larry Griffin, retired from the Dredge Potter.

Charles Rhoads, retired from ED-C.

James Worts, retired from ED-DCC

Pat DiBello, retired from HR.



## Most on-the-job injuries involve hand, fingers during material handling

It's an unusual job that doesn't include a certain amount of material handling. Whether you are a warehouse person, a machine operator, or an office worker, you handle material either frequently or occasionally. That's when your hands and fingers are at risk. According to the National Safety Council, most on-the-job injuries involve fingers and hands.

Here are some things you can do to keep your hands safe:

- \* Inspect materials for slivers, jagged or sharp edges, burrs, and rough or slippery surfaces.



- Wear the right kind of gloves for the task. Use gloves, hand leathers, or other hand protectors when applicable.
- Grasp objects with a firm grip.
- Know your equipment. Keep your fingers away from pinch points.

- Keep your hands away from the ends of boards, pipe, or other long objects.
- Wipe off materials that are wet, greasy, slippery, or dirty before handling them.
- Keep your hands free of oil and grease.
- Check to see if there are handles available for various items such as auto batteries. Use tongs for feeding material into metal-forming machines and use baskets for carrying laboratory samples.
- Know that your hands and fingers are clear before putting down a heavy carton.

## Nutrition plan repairs bad habit damage

Remember when you could attack a keg of beer, eat the biggest steak, get a suntan, and smoke cigarettes. Those days are gone. Now what?



The good news is that the human body adapts to almost everything you put it through, and much damage can be repaired, says Dr. Susan Kleiner, author of *Power Eating* (Human Kinetics). These are some of the

unwise things people do and how to repair the damage:

**Drink a six-pack:** Huge amounts of liquid flush away stored vitamins and nutrients needed for immunity, muscle contraction, relaxation, and growth. Best advice: Take a multivitamin that includes B vitamins and antioxidants, says Dr. Alan Magaziner, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Living Longer and Healthier* (Alpha Books). Quoted in *Men's Fitness*, Dr. Magaziner says liver and brain damage caused by moderate drinking is reversible if you quit.

**Smoke:** The list of consequences is too long to mention. Smoking affects most body functions. Best advice: Quit! Eat at least six servings of fruits and vegetables a day. Break your dining into six or seven small meals to avoid weight gain, and include complex carbohydrates like whole wheat bread. Starting an exercise program is the most beneficial thing an ex-smoker can do. It produces chemical changes similar to those caused by nicotine and decreases anxiety, depression, and weight gain.

**Worship the sun:** Exposure to the sun causes skin aging, puts a ton of free radicals into the system, and increases the risk of skin cancer. Best advice: Stay out of the sun at midday, and wear SPF 45 sunscreen at other times. Take a supplement that includes vitamins C and E, selenium, copper, zinc, and manganese. Drink 8 to 10 glasses of water a day.

**Eat a 32-oz. steak:** Aside from fat making you gain weight, eating too much meat increases your risk for heart disease and certain cancers. Best advice: Eat leaner cuts but replace most red meat with poultry and fish. Take vitamin E and folic acid supplements and get more fiber into your diet.

**Watch TV constantly:** Do something else for part of each evening. Exercise for 30 minutes a day three times a week. Eat meals in the kitchen. Stock low-fat snacks like fat-free yogurt and fresh vegetables. Use an exercise bike while watching TV.

Regardless of what you have done to your body in the past, it's never too late to get healthier and stronger.





## Retiree's Corner



The retirees had a great day, weather-wise to have their luncheon on the 21st of March. It was a lively group, in many ways.

Bob Maxwell returned after several months. He had been a motivator at the complex where he lives. He has also been very busy volunteering at the Missouri Veterans Home. He has been doing this since it was established about ten years ago. In fact he was there when they opened. Bob was asked for his formula for such a long life. He said it was very simple—KEEP BREATHING. (Good advice.) He said that he had called Don Wampler just before the luncheon and that Don had family in town and would not attend.

Laurel Nelson mentioned that she recently spoke with Kathryn Crossley and that she was just enjoying retirement. Kathryn deserves the pleasures of “just enjoying retirement” after the many years of keeping the Public Affairs Office on the straight and narrow.

Larry McCarthy was by himself at the luncheon. He said his wife was working and couldn't make it. (Sounds like Larry is a “kept” man.) He said that he and his wife were making preparations to participate in the House Tours in the Tower Grove East area. Their home was on the tour and it was still decorated for the Christmas Season.

Elsie Kalafatic relinquished her duties as unofficial coffee pourer since that bad experience of last month. She said that she is just content to be waited on, like a lady should. She said that she recently met Catherine Kleinecke and she looks great. She has been doing less

volunteering lately and is just enjoying retirement.

Joe Bisher took time away from his very busy schedule and brought an article to the luncheon about the American Legion. Seems that the first caucus of the organization was held here in St. Louis at the then Shubert Theatre, located at 12th Street (now renamed Tucker Blvd.) and Olive, in May 1919. There is a plaque commemorating this event, on the bank building at 301 North Tucker Blvd. Some of the retirees asked Joe what it was like at the first caucus. He said that he was too young to remember, but he was told that beer flowed from every corner in the downtown area, compliments of Anheuser-Busch. The plaque, that had been on the Shubert Theatre, was misplaced when the theatre was demolished. Through Joe's efforts the plaque was found and re-posted at its current location. Thanks Joe, from all the members of the American Legion. Joe also mentioned that he received a call from Edith Waters, who lives in Florida. She was asking about the redevelopments in the downtown area as to residences. After all these years, Edith is longing for some changes of seasons and snow. (WOW, there is someone looking to get back to snow.) Joe still tells people where to go—he works at the Arch. Drop by and get a verbal history of the Arch.

Charlie Denzel recently had lunch with John Jansen. They went to Applebee's and John opened his wallet. Charlie said that it was so full of cobwebs and moths that the waitress was surprised it would even unfold. That didn't bother John. He even serenaded her with a German song. No one understood the words, but John did a great job of singing, considering he is well over 35.

Lew Scheuermann mentioned the Spring Golf tournament and invited everyone to play and to join the golf league. He made a pitch that golf is a sport that everyone can play. They even have it as an event in the Senior Olympics. He also mentioned the Senior Olympics, that will be held in May. Everyone is invited to participate. He and Helen have several medals, gold, silver and bronze, for various events. Lew said that both the Bakers and Elstelle Huizenga are doing fine.

## April 18th monthly luncheon

Lew Scheuermann brought in some OLD pictures that the GOLDEN EAGLE RIVER MUSEUM asked if any of the retirees could help identify. Some go back as far as 1947. (That's a very long time ago.) Unfortunately the “senior” retiree—Bob Maxwell was not in attendance, so many of the people in the pictures are still unidentified. Joe Bisher seemed to remember that a Ray Covington, chief engineer on one of the dredges, had given similar pictures to the museum a short time ago, and now the museum is trying to identify the individuals. (Guess the museum will have to wait until the “senior” retiree can look them over.)

Larry McCarthy and his wife, Sharon, mentioned that their home was being shown on the SHOW ME ST. LOUIS program on channel 5, that afternoon, at 3:00pm. The McCarthy's still have their home decorated for the Christmas Holidays, all three floors. (Hope many of you saw the program.)

Joe Bisher brought some pamphlets about the Gateway Arch. He expounded on the tourist attraction just as if he was there when it was built. He is there several days a week to assist the visitors in their enjoying the attraction.

Don Wampler gave presentation on the “Long-term care insurance program” as presented by NARFE. In summary the program is an insurance policy to provide long term care. OPM and Long-Term Care Partners, the contractor that will administer the program will launch a major education campaign about the benefits during an open season, which will run from July 1 to December 31. Individuals who don't know much about long term care insurance should wait until the open season to enroll. There will be a separate program for retirees. The retirees, their spouses, parents, etc. will have to answer a series of questions about their medical history before they are enrolls. (More on this later.)

**The May luncheon will be on May 16th, at the Salad Bowl at about 11:00am. Hope to see you there.**

## Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

May is officially designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The Asian Pacific American Heritage observance became a month-long celebration in 1980. May was chosen as the focal month, because it commemorates the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in 1843. This focal celebration provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in our workplaces, communities and schools throughout the country.

During the month of May, we will focus on the state of Hawaii. Polynesians were the first to set foot on these islands. During the 13th and 14th centuries, waves of immigrants from Tahiti overwhelmed and absorbed the original people. In 1778, the great Pacific explorer Captain James Cook, came upon these islands. Soon afterwards, King Kamehameha the Great successfully united the islands into one kingdom. It was also at this time that Hawaii assumed importance in the east-west fur trade and the center for the Pacific whaling industry. Change came at a rapid pace as both education and commerce assumed growing importance. The old Hawaiian culture disappeared rapidly under the new ways, new peoples, and new diseases, to which the previously isolated Hawaiians were all too susceptible. In 1835, the first production of sugar cane began, which took on rapidly increasing economic importance. Threatened constantly by European nations eager to add Hawaii to their empires, sugar planters and American businessmen began to seek annexation by the U.S.

Finally, a treaty was negotiated in 1875 and this brought new prosperity to Hawaii. American wealth poured into the islands seeking investment. Political control by Hawaiian royalty and the growing influence of Americans began to cause conflict. In 1889, there was an uprising of the native islanders, however, the rebellion was



suppressed. In 1893, with Queen Liliuokalani on the throne, the Americans formed a Committee of Safety and declared the monarchy ended. In 1894, the Republic of Hawaii was established; and, in August 1898, a treaty of annexation was negotiated with the US and a transfer of sovereignty was made with a promise of eventual statehood. Hawaii became a territory of the U.S. in 1900. The U.S. Navy then set up its Pacific headquarters at Pearl Harbor. The attack on Pearl Harbor marked America's entry into WW II and Hawaii played a major role in the conflict. During the postwar period, there were rapid changes with the plantation laborers rising to prominent positions in business, labor and government. On March 18, 1959, a bill was signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Hawaii was admitted as the 50th state of the union on August 21, 1959.

Mark Twain described Hawaii as "The loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean". Listed below are some interesting facts about the state of Hawaii:

- The state of Hawaii consists of eight main islands (Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and the big island of Hawaii).
- Under-sea volcanoes that erupted thousands of years ago formed the islands of Hawaii.
- More than one-third of the world's commercial supply of pineapples comes from Hawaii.
- From east to west Hawaii is the widest state in the U.S.
- Hawaii has its own time zone. There is no daylight savings time. The time runs two hours behind Pacific Standard Time and five hours behind Eastern Standard Time.
- The wind blows east to west in Hawaii. The highest recorded temperature is 96 degrees F. The lowest temperature is 56 degrees F. The average daytime temperature is 82 degrees. The average temperature in January is 72 degrees.
- The big island of Hawaii is the worldwide leader in harvesting macadamia nuts and orchids.
- There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet (Vowels A, E, I, O, and U and consonants H, K, L, M, N, P, and W).

**The EEO Office will be focusing on this state all month. Interesting and informative e-mails will be sent out periodically. We will also have a Hawaiian display in the 4th floor lobby.**